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Minutes 02/03/2009

Arlington Historical Commission
 Minutes for the Meeting of
 Tuesday, 3 February 2009
 Whittemore-Robbins House, 7:45 p.m.

Call to Order: JoAnn Robinson, Co-Chairman, presiding, with Commissioners Eric Stange, Pamela Meister, Dianne Schaefer, Jane Becker and Associate Commissioner, Alex Frisch in attendance.

Review of January 2009 Minutes: Minutes accepted as amended.

Communications Received

- Mark Miano regarding 49 Grove St. – the DPW garage. (see below).
- Coldwell Banker real estate agent inquiring about 259 Pleasant St. Referred to Arlington Historic Districts Commission.
- Call from contractor doing work at 18 Oakland Ave. Memo sent to Building Department that the proposed work does not require a Commission hearing.
- Call regarding Historical House marker for 147 Warren St. Richard had contacted him that the sign was in, but he was away for 2 weeks so he was trying to reconnect with Richard to make arrangements to pick up sign or have it delivered.
- Call from the owner of 8 Bates Road calling in response to mailing.
- Call regarding exterior renovations to 323-329 Broadway. Contractor is Richard Ananian, Coran Construction.

Reports of other Town Boards and Historical Organizations:

- Arlington Preservation Fund (Frisch) – Nothing to report.
- Zoning By-Law Review Committee (Stange) – Hearing regarding signage at 754 Massachusetts Ave. in the Jason/Gray District
- Arlington Historical Society (Duffy) – Membership meeting and Board meeting in February.
- Old Schwamb Mill (Duffy) – No report.
- Arlington Historic Districts Commission (Frisch) – Mr. Frisch reported on plans being discussed at 187 Lowell St. (Mt. Gilboa District) where current owners want to add 2 houses to the property. Mr. Frisch also reported on tentative approval for a solar panel on 25 Avon Place.
- 200th Anniversary Committee (Meister) – Meeting was held on January 14, 2009, to discuss the disposition of the remaining Anniversary Committee funds. A warrant article was agreed on by the Committee and submitted to Town Meeting for approval. It includes the following recommendations: \$1500 to go to Robbins Library for acquisition of books related to Arlington; \$1500 to go to a celebration fund; and the remainder (\$5000) to be put in the Town's General Fund. There will not be a compendium created by Mr. Duffy. Memorabilia from the 200th Anniversary will be given to the Librarian to create a scrapbook.

Historical Commission FY 2009 Budget – Nothing to report.

Projects Proceeding under Hearings and Approvals:

- 3-5 Brattle Street (Fertman) 4/02 Stange – Nothing to report.
- 821 Massachusetts Avenue (Noyes RT) 10/03; modified 4/08 Duffy – Mr. Duffy has been attending the Redevelopment Board meetings regarding this property. The current proposal is to preserve the house on its original foundation, so that it may be used for affordable housing units developed by the Housing Corporation of Arlington. Exterior work on the house would come before the Commission in due course, but at the moment the prospects look very good that the house will not be demolished.

The plan for the CVS building is to locate it very close to the Atwood House. The CVS had to be repositioned on the lot in order to bring it to the curb, rather than having parking in front of a store building that is set back from the sidewalk.

In order to give a little more breathing room to the Atwood House, one possibility would entail having less than a 15-foot landscaped buffer between the CVS parking lot and the adjacent parking lot at the High School.

Mr. Duffy would like to be able to say that it is the consensus of the Commission that we would support such an alternative. All Commissioners were in agreement for support of these plans. All are pleased that the Atwood House will be preserved and put to beneficial use.

- Symmes Hospital (Town of Arlington) 6/04 Duffy – No report.
- 21 Appleton Street (Colosimo) 4/08 Robinson – No work done.
- 18 Water Street (Callahan) 7/08 Robinson – Nothing to report.
- 40 Lake Street (Burger/Rosenburg) 9/08 Guthrie – No report.
- 3 Brantwood Road (aka 22 Kensington Park) (Anesse) 9/08 Robinson – Nothing to report.
- 43-45 Massachusetts Ave. 7/08 Schaefer – Nothing to report.

Continuing Projects

- Whittemore Robbins House (and outbuildings): Robinson – Nothing to report.
- Arlington Civic Block Garden: Robinson – Nothing to report.
- Inventory Expansion and Review: Duffy, Robinson – Nothing to report.
- Education/Outreach: Duffy/Robinson – Nothing to report.
- Historic House Markers: Duffy – No report.
- Town Hall: Duffy – No report.
- Web Site: Stange – Nothing to report.

Discussion and Hearings: No hearings scheduled.
Old Business: Nothing to discuss.

New Business:

- Proposed repairs to the DPW Garage (former manufacturing plant of Arlington Gas Light Company) at 49 Grove St.- Mark Miano

The Department of Public Works garage is on the National Register of Historic Places. Plans presented to the Commission include the removal of all red terracotta roof tiles and the installation of a seamed, metal roof. It also proposes to replace all flat roofs with a membrane roof with and to remove the original cast stone coping. The Commissioners requested the following:

- A plan that would provide the costs to restore the historic terracotta tiled roof.
- A quote for installing the flat membrane roof with appropriate replacement of the original cast stone coping that has been removed or must be replaced.
- JoAnn will communicate this to Mark Miano and ask for a presentation to the Commission.

Adjourn at 8:20pm

The next Arlington Historical Commission meeting will be March 3, 2009, at 7:45pm

For the Arlington Historical Commission, Victoria Rose, Recording Secretary.